

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 ACDA-19 GAC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OMB-01 IO-12 RSR-01 NIC-01 /145 W

----- 069132

R 130900 TEAPR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 717

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

USCINCEUR

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0505

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SO ET

SUBJ: SOMALI- ETHIOPIAN TENSIONS

1. SUMMARY. DURING MY LENGTHY MEETING WITH SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD APRIL 12, HE PRESENTED STRONG CASE FOR HIS GOVERNMENT' S PEACEFUL INTENTIONS TOWARD ETHIOPIA. HE ALSO MADE FORCEFUL PITCH FOR US HELP IN DEFUSING PRESENT TENSIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. I HAD TWO- HOUR TALK WITH SIAD MORNING APRIL 12. FOR MOST PART, HE WAS RELAXED AND FRIENDLY. HE NEVERTHELESS EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN ABOUT ETHIOPIAN MILITARY BUILDUP IN OGADEN. SOMALIS WERE BAFFLED AND UNEASY ABOUT WHAT ETHIOPIANS WERE UP TO. STARTING WITH UACSEN INCIDENT LAST NOVEMBE, ETHIOPIANS HAD ADOPTED PROVOCATIVE TACTICS OVER RECENT MONTHS WHICH CREATED POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE SITUATION AND SMACKED OF PREPARATIONS FOR PREEMPTIVE ATTACK AGAINST SOMALIA.

3. RE BNAGOL INCIDENT, SIAD IMPLICITLY ADMITTED THAT SOMALI POLICEMAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN AT FAULT. HOWEVER, THIS INCIDENT WAS TAME CONTRASTED WITH RECENT ETHIOPIAN INCURSIONS. IN ANY CONFIDENTIAL

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CASE, ON RECEIPT HAILE SELASSIE' S MESSAGE, HE HAD IMMEDIATELY ORDERED INVESTIGATION AND WITHDRAWAL OF POLICE.

4. TO MY OBSERVATION THAT ETHIOPIANS WERE WORRIED ABOUT SOVIET ARMS DELIVERIES AND SOMALI INTENTIONS, SIAD R SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON ROK COMMANDERS OR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ROK FORCES. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT THERE IS SOME EFFECT ON THE PERSONAL INTERESTS OF THE KMA GROUP BUT NONE OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE ON THE MILITARY AS A WHOLE OR ON THE ROK NATIONAL INTEREST. THE ROK MILITARY WILL ACCEPT YUN' S DISMISSAL AS A NECESSARY PURGING OF UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS OF THE OFFICER CORPS AND CLOSE RANKS BEHIND THE PRESIDENT. THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT AS A WHOLE IS, HOWEVER, EMBARRASSED AND CONCERNED THAT THE TRIAL AND CONVICTION OF ONE OF ITS TOP FIGURES WILL DIMINISH ITS STATURE IN THE EYES OF THE PUBLIC.

B. FROM THE BEGINNING, YUN' S DISMISSAL HAS BEEN PUBLICLY KNOWN IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER AND A SUBJECT OF WIDESPREAD RUMOR. SOME OF THIS HAS BEEN EXAGGERATED, ERRONEOUS, AND MORE OMINOUS THAN THE FACTS. CONTINUING UNCERTAINTIES FED BY THE ABSENCE OF ANY OFFICIAL EXPLANATION, AND DISILLUSIONING DISCLOSURE THAT SOME - THING WAS SERIOUSLY WRONG WITHIN THE TIGHT CIRCLE OF THOSE CLOSEST TO THE PRESIDENT HAS RAISED UNANSWERED QUESTIONS AMONG THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

7. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE YUN CASE WILL BE PRESENTED PUBLICLY AS ONE INVOLVING CORRUPTION, CONDUCT UNBECOMING A SENIOR OFFICER, AND MISUSE OF POWER, OMITTING ANY SUGGESTION OF AN INTERNAL POWER STRUGGLE OR PLOTTING FOR MILITARY ACTION. IT ALSO SEEMS LIKELY THAT PRESIDENT IS SIZING THE OCCASION TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF THE YUN CASE BY SHOWING TO YUN' S PEERS HIS ABSOLUTE INTOLERANCE OF ANY QUESTIONING OR CROSSING OF HIS AUTHORITY AND LEADERSHIP.

8. OUR PRESENT READING IS THAT PARK CHONG HEE WILL EMERGE FROM THE EPISODE WITHOUT ANY MAJOR IMPAIRMENT OF HIS LEADERSHIP.
HABIB

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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